

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 30, 32-36, and 40-55, including new claims 40-55 are pending in the application with the present amendments. In the Office Action, claims 20-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,838,851 to Saitoh et al. ("Saitoh") alone or in combination with other references. For the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully request that the presently amended claims are fully distinguished from the cited references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

As set forth in presently amended claim 30, an information processing method controls the deletion of received broadcasted content data from a recording medium.

In one preferred method recited in claim 30, content data is multiplexed with first control information by a first information processing apparatus and transmitted as multiplexed data via a digital broadcast transmission. The multiplexed data is then received and demultiplexed by a second information processing apparatus to receive the content data and the first control information. Then, the received content data is recorded onto a recording medium. A condition specified by the first control information, e.g., time interval, copy count or reproduction count, determines whether and when the content data is deleted from the recording medium. When the specified condition is met, the content data is deleted. In another method recited in claim 46, a received digital broadcast transmission is demultiplexed into content data and the first control information. The received content data is then recorded onto a recording medium. A condition specified by the first control information, e.g., time interval, copy count or reproduction count, determines whether and when the content data is deleted from the recording medium.

By contrast, no such method recited in claim 30 or

claim 46 is taught or suggested by *Saitoh* either alone, or in combination with other references of record in this application.

*Saitoh* merely describes a process of transmitting data together with a "time stamp" (col. 5, lns. 28-33), or with information to permit authentication between receiving apparatuses using a shared or common key. (col. 3, lns. 6-37 and cols. 5-6). There is nothing in *Saitoh* which either teaches or suggests recording content data onto a recording medium by an apparatus at a receiving end and subsequently deleting the content data when a condition is met that is specified by control information received and demultiplexed from a digital broadcast transmission.

Recitations similar to those of claim 46 are also found in the independent claims 41 and 51, such that they are distinguished from the cited references on at least the same basis as claim 46.

Nor do any of the other references cited by the Examiner teach or suggest these features recited in claims 30 and 46. U.S. Patent No. 6,470,496 to Kato et al. is merely cited as describing the transmission of an ECM. U.S. Patent No. 6,622,004 to Sonoda et al. is merely cited in relation to encoding content data in a carousel manner.

In addition, claims 42-45, and similar claims 47-50 and 51-55 recite additional limitations which are neither taught nor suggested by *Saitoh* either alone, or in combination with other references of record in this application.

Support for the present amendments is provided, *inter alia*, at paragraphs [0087] and [0113] of the Specification.

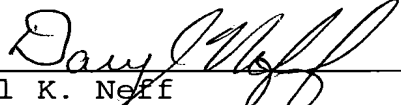
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which she might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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